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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 256780

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, CH, US

SUBJECT: QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR A/S SOLOMON'S TRIP TO  
BEIJING

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE FOR POSTS' USE AS  
NECESSARY. PLEASE NOTE THE GUIDANCE IS IF ASKED  
ONLY-REPEAT IF ASKED ONLY.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

Q: WHY IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOLOMON IN CHINA?

A: SECRETARY BAKER ASKED ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST  
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS RICHARD H. SOLOMON TO TRAVEL TO  
CHINA ON AUGUST 3 TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO THE  
SECRETARY'S TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE USSR, AND  
MONGOLIA--INCLUDING CAMBODIA AND THE SITUATION IN KUWAIT.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOLOMON ALSO WILL GO TO TOKYO AUGUST 5  
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AND THEN PROCEED TO SEOUL TO PROVIDE SIMILAR BRIEFINGS ON

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THE TRIP.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOLOMON WILL FOCUS PARTICULARLY ON DETAILS OF OUR RECENT REVISION OF CAMBODIAN POLICY, AND HE WILL ELABORATE ON WAYS IN WHICH OUR POLICY WILL ASSIST EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT ON THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE.

Q: DOES THIS VISIT REPRESENT A STEP TOWARD BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH THE CHINESE? IS THIS ANOTHER SECRET TRIP? DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE BAN ON HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES WITH CHINA IS LIFTED?

A: WE HAVE A BAN ON HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES, SUCH AS THE JOINT COMMISSION ON COMMERCE AND TRADE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE MAINTAINED CONTACTS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOLOMON'S TRIP FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY.

WE WILL KEEP THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE LAST YEAR UNDER REVIEW FOR FUTURE ADJUSTMENT TO RESPOND TO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA.

Q: WHO WILL A/S SOLOMON MEET IN BEIJING?

A: HE WILL MEET WITH OFFICIALS IN THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Q: DID THE CHINESE INVITE A/S SOLOMON OR WAS THE INITIATIVE ON THE U.S. SIDE?

A: WE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DISPATCH A/S SOLOMON TO  
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BEIJING TO BRIEF ON THESE ISSUES AND THE CHINESE WERE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT WE HAD TO SAY.

END TEXT.      EAGLEBURGER